(b) Yes, Sir. Government has taken a number of measures to increase exports of fresh fruits and vegetables. These include Cash Compensatory Support, which also provides for compensation of cost of transportation, import replenishment to registered exporters, assistance for market development, periodic dialogues with the State Governments and export organisations for increasing production and exports of fruits and vegetables. Increased air cargo capacity has been organised to facilitate their exports especially during mango season. Agricultural and processed Food Products Export Development Authority has been set up to provide institutional framework for increasing exports of fruits and vegetables.

Bonded labour

845. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that bonded labour is still prevailing in Delhi and other places and that some bonded labourers were sent to Gulf countries recently; and

(b) if so, whether any investigations were made in this regard and whether the bonded labourers who were sent abroad were rescued and rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A SANGMA): (a) The Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law throughout the country with effect from the 25th October, 1975 under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Under the Act, the responsibility for identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers rests entirely with the State Governments concerned. However, the incidence of bonded labour has been reported from 12 States viz., Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. No incidence of bonded labour has been reported from Delhi. According to the latest reports received from the State Governments, the total number of bonded labourers identified and freed as on 31-3-1986 was 2,05,923 out of which 1,60,268 have been rehabilitated.

Whenever an emigrant worker goes for overseas employment, he goes only after executing a Service Agreement duly authorised by the Protector of Emigrants. No incidence of bonded labourers being sent to Gulf Countries have been brought to the notice of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Welfare measures contemplated under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund

846. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the benefits/welfare measures contemplated under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund are not reaching the actual beedi workers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is large scale bungling, misappropriation, misuse and corruption in the office of the Welfare Commissioner Allahabad; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to hold an enquiry into the whole affairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) It is the constant endeavour of the Ministry of Labour that the benefits and welfare measures under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Schemes should reach the maximum number of Beedi Workers. For this purpose Identity Cards have been issued to the eligible Beedi workers. More and more workers are being identified for the purpose of issuing of Identity Cards to beedi workers.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Government have received no such complaints and, as such, there is no proposal to hold any inquiry.